

National Agricultural Summary

July 10 - 16, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Above-normal temperatures accelerated crop development in the Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and across most of the Corn Belt and Southeast. Crop conditions in the Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and Southeast suffered due to high temperatures and increasing moisture shortages. In the Corn Belt, rain maintained soil moisture levels in

many areas, but serious moisture shortages remained in parts of the western Corn Belt, while substantial moisture surpluses remained in the central Corn Belt. Mostly dry weather aided wheat harvesting in the Great Plains and eastern Corn Belt. Below-normal temperatures hindered crop development in the Pacific Coast States.

Corn: Forty-nine percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, well ahead of last year's 34-percent pace and more than double the 23-percent average for this date. Acreage at or beyond the dough stage was 6 percent, compared with 5 percent last year and the average of 4 percent. Near to above-normal temperatures accelerated development across most of the Corn Belt, with 30 to 40 percent of the acreage entering the silking stage in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska. Development was only slightly slower in the Great Plains, as more than 20 percent of the acreage advanced to the silking stage in Kansas and North Dakota. Acreage silking in Minnesota and Ohio increased to 29 and 30 percent, respectively. Development lagged in Michigan and Wisconsin. More than half of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage in North Carolina and Texas. Rain maintained adequate soil moisture supplies across a large portion of the Corn Belt, but moisture shortages increased in Nebraska. Conditions deteriorated in Kansas due to moisture shortages and hot weather.

Soybeans: Fifty-eight percent of the crop was blooming, 10 percentage points ahead of last year's rapid pace, and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Hot weather promoted rapid development in the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and lower Mississippi Valley. More than one-third of the acreage entered the bloom stage in Nebraska and North Dakota. Nearly 30 percent of the acreage entered the bloom stage in Iowa and Minnesota, while more than 20 percent of the crop entered the bloom stage in Illinois, Indiana, and South Dakota. Below-normal temperatures hindered development in Michigan and Ohio. Acreage setting pods, at 15 percent, was also ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Development was most advanced in Louisiana and Mississippi, but hot, dry weather severely stressed many fields. Acreage setting pods was less advanced in the Corn Belt and Great Plains, even though progress accelerated.

Small grains: The winter wheat harvest advanced to 82 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and more than 1 week ahead of the 73 percent average for this date. Harvest rapidly advanced in the eastern Corn Belt, as a pocket of dry weather aided progress in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Dry weather also aided harvest efforts in the Great Plains. Progress accelerated in South Dakota and rapidly neared completion in Colorado and Nebraska. Harvest was underway in the Pacific Northwest, but progress remained slow.

Spring wheat and barley were 89 and 88 percent headed, respectively. Spring wheat development was 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Barley development was 1 week ahead of last year and nearly 1 week ahead of the average for this date. Hot

weather promoted rapid development in the northern Great Plains. In North Dakota, 20 percent of the barley and 16 percent of the spring wheat advanced to the heading stage during the week. In Montana, spring wheat and barley entering the heading stage was only slightly slower. Extreme heat and moisture shortages stressed fields in parts of the northern Great Plains, while adequate moisture maintained crop conditions in others. Below-normal temperatures hindered development in the Pacific Northwest.

Ninety-six percent of oats were headed, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid development in North Dakota, where 21 percent of the acreage entered the heading stage during the week. The oat harvest was 9 percent complete, compared with 7 percent a year ago and more than double the 4-percent average for this date. Hot weather quickly ripened fields in the western Corn Belt. Dry weather aided harvest progress in Nebraska, where more than half of the acreage was harvested, far ahead of the 5-year average. In Iowa, rain limited harvest activity, but progress remained well ahead of normal.

Cotton: Ninety percent of cotton acreage was at or beyond the squaring stage, while acreage setting bolls advanced to 45 percent. Development through both stages was ahead of the 5-year average and last year's slow pace, as above-normal temperatures stimulated rapid development. Fields rapidly entered the squaring stage in the southern Great Plains and Atlantic Coastal Plains, advancing 12 percentage points in Oklahoma and 10 percentage points in South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Fields setting bolls rapidly increased in the interior Mississippi Delta States. Nearly half of the Arkansas cotton acreage began setting bolls during the week, while more than one-third of the acreage in Mississippi and Missouri progressed to the boll setting stage. In Tennessee, acreage setting bolls more than doubled, to 54 percent. Conditions deteriorated due to extreme heat and severe moisture shortages, especially in Mississippi.

Rice: Twenty-seven percent of the crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year and the average for this date. Development continued ahead of normal in Louisiana and Texas. Extreme heat stressed fields, but accelerated growth in Mississippi. Despite the rapid growth in Mississippi, development remained slightly behind normal.

Other crops: Thirty-three percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, and 18 percent was turning color. Acreage at or beyond the heading stage was about a week ahead of last year's progress and slightly ahead of normal. Acreage turning color was slightly ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Sixty-five percent of peanuts were pegging, slightly behind last year's pace.